

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Serial No. 10/628,001

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**REMARKS**

This response is intended as a complete response to the Office Action dated July 14, 2005. In view of the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS****35 U.S.C. §102 Claims 1-8, 27-38, 60, and 61**

Claims 1-8, 27-38, 60, and 61 stand rejected as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,420,194 issued July 16, 2002 to *Reitman* (hereinafter referred to as "*Reitman*"). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 1 and 29 recite limitations not taught or suggested by *Reitman*. *Reitman* does not teach or suggest performing a process perturbation operation in the process chamber. *Reitman* discloses monitoring substrate processing operations, such as etching, through real time observations of respective state variables during the processes (Column 1 lines 56-62). For example, *Reitman* teaches using the monitoring method for finding the endpoint in an etch process (Column 6, lines 14-16). Thus, *Reitman* does not teach or suggest performing a substrate processing operation and a process perturbation operation in a process chamber, as recited by claims 1 and 29.

Therefore, claims 1 and 29, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over *Reitman*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

**ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 9-22 and 39-55 are allowed.

**CONCLUSION**

Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.

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If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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